

# YOU CAN'T JUST SHOVE



The buzz around commo shops now is about batteries. With new types of batteries coming into the Army system and the emphasis on using rechargeables, proper storage and handling procedures have become even more important.

Here are a dozen storage and handling tips every commo equipment user and repairman, whether at a large storage facility or just in a unit, should know.

**1. Personal protective equipment** such as gloves, face shields and aprons must be available and must be worn whenever handling leaking or vented batteries.

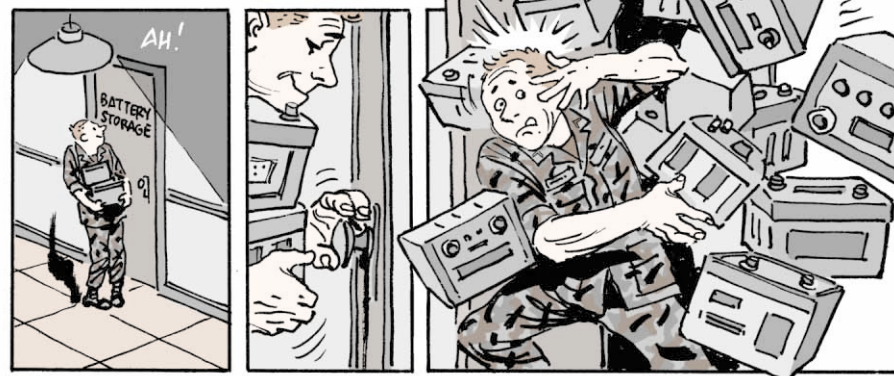


**2. Get your post fire department** to help you pick a battery storage location and to inspect it periodically.



For large bulk storage of batteries, a sprinkler system is recommended. BC extinguishers will do the job for small fires of combustibles such as packaging. Lithium battery fires should only be handled by trained firefighters.

# 'EM IN A CLOSET



**3. Keep batteries in their original packaging** until they are used. The original packaging helps you identify the batteries and does offer some protection from crushing, puncturing and shorting.



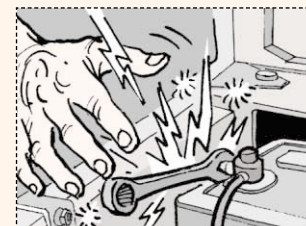
**4. Temperatures in battery storage** and maintenance facilities must not exceed 130°F. Among the problems high heat causes is the loss of available capacity and, in the case of rechargeables, the loss of the capacity for recharging.

If the temperature in your storage area consistently hits the 110-degree mark, it's time to think about cooling off the area or finding another storage spot.

**5. Battery chemistries** don't mix well with each other. Some combinations can cause explosions and others harmful gases. So segregate batteries in storage, especially lead acid batteries away from nickel cadmium or nickel metal hydride.

**6. The same tools and materials** must not be used between battery chemistries. So color code the tools. Pick a color for each type of battery a tool could be used on and mark the storage area, as well as the tool, with that color.

Watch out when using metal tools or materials that you don't short circuit a battery or cause sparks that could lead to an explosion.





7. Do not smoke, eat or drink in battery storage areas. An open flame could lead to an explosion and eating around toxins is never a good idea.



8. Do not mix new and used batteries. Each type needs its own storage area. Do not let used batteries pile up. Properly dispose of them quickly.

9. Periodically inspect stored batteries for defects such as bulges, cracks or leaks and to monitor battery expiration dates.

10. Keep only authorized batteries on hand and keep only the number that you need. It's a good idea to display in your storage area a list of available batteries and the equipment they're used in.

11. Know the odors, such as the smell of rotten eggs, and sounds, such as hissing and popping, associated with abnormal battery behavior. Let your nose and ears tell you when you might have a problem with a stored battery. Also, immediately disconnect any battery that is hot to the touch.



12. Last, but certainly not least, all personnel should be properly trained in maintenance procedures, first aid, personal protection equipment and the hazards of battery maintenance operations.

